

GSA*

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Ground Saucer Watch

"CIVILIAN AERIAL PHENOMENA RESEARCH ORGANIZATION"
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DIRECTLY SPEAKING
By: William H. Spaulding

The year 1982 ended as silently as it started, without the projected influx of numerous saucer reports. Throughout the years of flying saucer incidents, especially during the high concentration periods, in which saucers are reported in high volume, there always has been a certain cyclic pattern. Saucer history (1947 to present), has shown a marked increase in serial phenomena incidents, occurring approximately at five year intervals. If history maintains its pattern (?) then a rash of reports should start in 1983.

Saucer enthusiasts have in the past, and will most likely in the future, begin to prepare for next year's projected increase of sightings. There has been talk about the use of new field investigation manuals, quick-strike teams (the ability to get civilian investigators into an area in short order) and improved analysis methods.

If the projected "flap" of sightings does transpire it would be paramount to determine the real cause of the cyclic regularity of such events. Past pattern studies, with and without computer support, reveals that although saucer reports exit at almost any time during a given year, it is the dramatic increase in sightings approximately every five years that has created the false illusion of a recognizable and established trend. Many political situations, social aspects and even the position of certain planets have been associated with the re-occurrence of saucer events. Few researchers take these studies seriously, as none of these events can be substantiated. Yet, it makes a good point if someone was attempting to provide a correlation to extraterrestrial visitations.

What could be the source behind these major cycles of activity? There are many things which could act as a catalyst to these occurrences and some of them could be directly related to the saucer researcher himself. In the past, a particular spokesperson for a major UFO organization or a "famous" independant investigator has been asked or voluntarily told the media that "an upswing in reports is shortcoming". There may also have been mention of the 5 year cycle as an added incentive. This weak proclamation, on its own, certainly did not start a build-up of saucer reports, regardless of how much publicity it generated. Yet, it has had a limited effect, possibly only psychologically, to act as a stimulus.

On the negative side of this theorizing are the fundamental facts that each time a saucer spokesperson (pro or anti in their belief) would predict a rapid increase in sightings by the body politic, due to entertainment stimuli of an event such as; Close Encounters of the Third Kind or ET: An Extraterrestrial, no appreciable influx has been recorded. Although the effect of extraterrestrial visitations, as presented in popular movies, could have a slight influence on empirical observations of saucer-like phenomena, logically it shouldn't start the masses from reporting numerous sightings.

What apparently has transpired is a "stronger" interest in the over-all subject. The real culprit for increased reports of saucer events is the media. News coverage in both respectable radio/television shows and the tabloids ignite greater interest. A new pattern study shows an influx of saucer reports commensurate to the volume of favorable and sensational news coverage.

The ultimate stimuli could easily come from an intelligence agency, through either indirect (misinformation) or direct interface (manipulation) of a few key events. This could spark the interest and create a parallelism with the media reporting on the subject. The events leading up to the flap of 1952 have revealed a definite government involvement, by having a high "unknown" rate of cases (20%) and, in turn, giving the central leadership of the saucer investigation to the CIA.

The inability to recognize "real" data patterns from the bogus, will only add more confusion to an investigative effort overwhelmed by rumors, theories and unprovable cases.

Ever since GSW started investigating the strong possibility that some of the so-called bona fide UFO events were directly related to government testing, numerous quantifiable incidents have been discovered. In late October (1982) the U.S. Army announced it would be performing new flight tests on its Pershing 2 missile. A test was scheduled and flown on November 4, 1982 and was the first of two missiles to be fired from the McGregor range near El Paso, TX. The launches will be high-trajectory flight paths to a target approximately 100 miles uprange at the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR).

The target for the third launch will be augmented by radar reflectors to aid in judging the performance of new guidance radar equipment. Other tests will occur from a launch site forty miles southwest of Mountain Home AFB (Idaho) and will be fired cross-statelines to WSMR.

These tests, if launched in good observational conditions, will most likely be misinterpreted as flying saucers by unwitting witnesses.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

On behalf of the entire GSW staff we wish everyone in the UFO field a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year. All of our membership's efforts have helped to bring us a little closer to the mystery behind the UFO phenomenon.

The Politics of Saucer Researching

The rationale of a comparison of our basic political structure in parties and issues within the U.S. Government can be a perfect parallelism to the structures existing within flying saucer research. It is extremely easy to see the obvious differences between the Far Leftists and the Extreme Right in ufology, after only a brief exposure to the personalities and their viewpoints.

The saucer field primarily consists of a small diversified army of investigators, theorists, scientists, hobbyists and enthusiastic readers of UFO literature that strongly support five major theories of saucer origin. Unfortunately, each of these theories are different in scope and when interfaced with the raw emotionalism of the supportive parties, the end result is one of non-logic and disarray.

Prior to commenting on the effects of these divisions, it is necessary to define each of the categories which generate the basis of the general saucer belief system.

The Far Left has a basic position that saucers represent a strange phenomena that is most likely related to psychic or mystical experiences. In this camp of Liberals one will find an abundance of Contactees and a fringe of theorists who boldly link saucers with ESP, monster cases, multiple dimensions and other paranormal delights. Many of the saucer believers in this category left the moderate extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH) position simply because they became tired of this not-yet-provable theory. To the Liberal, with extreme inclinations, the mystical theories offer intriguing new hope for a solution to the saucers and answers many of the difficult problems associated with ETH.

Although many of those involved with the more "conventional" saucer beliefs scoff at this segment of saucer enthusiasts, this division by sheer numbers constitutes the vast percentage of the total saucer movement. Generally this category has little scientific research and relies heavily upon unsubstantiated data and the testimony of many unreliable witnesses by any standard. Recently some Moderate researchers, by definition, have promoted the cause of the Far Leftists by placing an unwarranted importance on contact-type cases, which ten years ago would not be remotely considered by the Moderate individual. This fact alone has done more to enhance the Liberal cause by supplying an added "aura of importance" to saucer encounters of this variety.

Moderate Position (slightly left)- The philosophy in this group believes that saucers are real and most likely extraterrestrial space craft. Many feel that some additional research is needed to confirm their obvious belief and that the U.S. Government is deliberately withholding important information from the public which would prove the existence of saucers.

Years ago when publicity permeated all forms of the media, this was the category of the greatest activity. The belief in ETH created a popular grass-roots movement for years, until recently when the once-vast numbers in this group started to view the saucer phenomenon from a different perspective. History has proven the entire civilian UFO movement was managed improperly. Nothing has been qualified during the past thirty plus years to claim that the saucer phenomenon originates from outer space. Many of the "better" researchers have shifted drastically to the right to form a majority of disgruntled/discouraged believers.

Many of the individuals who are researching the crashed saucer cases fall into this category. The highly sensational cases of crashed discs have gained some respectability due to the reputation of Moderates in this group. The entire concept of crashed saucers implies alien visitation, yet gains slight respectability, because reports of this variety, involving contacts with aliens, is not as acceptable to the Moderately Left group, as is the case with the Liberal element perspective.

Moderate Position (slightly right) - This element of the saucer movement has a basic position that saucers are unexplainable phenomena. Most of these "serious" researchers claim that vigorous scientific research is required to establish a substantial explanation to the reports of saucers.

The few scientists that are interested in saucers have assumed a position near the center, almost non-committal. Ineffective research due to a lack of formal funding is obvious. The only main contributions to the UFO field made by the scientific community is some work done on soil evaluations from purported "landing" areas, photographic interpretation systems, statistical data analyses and the short-comings of hypnosis and the polygraph as a viable tool for saucer investigative work. After all these years and all the reports, the saucers still remain a mystery.

The Moderate Right has a position that can be classified as one of cautious optimism. To the hordes of disgruntled believers they are still waiting for the Moderate scientist to take some positive stand on the phenomenon which may rekindle their belief. Other than that faint hope, the discouraged perceives that the scientific community is doing nothing.

The New Wave - Right Wing Thinking - This particular element of thinking maintains a basic position that the saucer phenomenon represents a ruse, created by the U.S. intelligence agencies as a cover for both weapon and psychological testing. That the small residue of bona-fide reports are real, at least to the observer, as part of a preconceived saucer belief system. Observed elements of this phenomena include; illegal rocket firings across state lines, remotely piloted vehicles, ECM, Stealth development vehicles, germ/nerve gas experiments on animals (cattle mutilations) and psychological testing on unwitting witnesses that may have generated some of the Close Encounters of the Third Kind cases.

Although this approach to the saucer movement fills the gap between the hardline groups of ETH believers and the extreme Conservative element that advocate that reports are hoaxes and/or misinterpretations, only a small segment of researchers are actively involved in this way of thinking.

This theory, although extremely tenable, seriously questions the credulity of the saucer researcher and suggests that his entire effort which he perceives as a scientific breakthrough for mankind, may be a facade which he directly helped due to his involvement.

The Far Right - Conservatives - This extreme position is the easiest path to take. Simply stated, the Conservative believes that all reports are hoaxes and misinterpretations and to help this cause, over ninety percent of all sightings fall into this category. Conservatives maintain that further research is pointless and that all of the previous government studies have proven this point.

The stereotyping of the skeptics, that all saucer reports represent nothing, is beginning to take a greater hold on body politic. Since the entire saucer movement is cyclic, i.e., both the popularity and apathy rise and fall with the volume of publicized reports, the entire movement is easy prey for the forceful skeptics that ridicule the entire concept of flying saucers. It's a pointless argument for those advocating ETH to scream that their theory is correct when this segment is divided with in-fighting, a lack of central leadership and a lack of free thinking ability by its continual promotion of outer space visitations.

The intent of the conservative element is to let the saucer movement bury itself and that eventually the views of the Condon Committee, the published findings of the Air Force and the negative findings of the GSW and CAUS lawsuit will have its intended effect and that the advocates of additional research will become tired of attempting to promote further saucer research.

These writings will not attempt to categorize all of the more famous researchers into these groupings, as in many instances it would only be a perception based on previous writings and comments of these figures. The following table will, however, make it easy to locate the position of many researchers, past and present.

LEFT

<----->

RIGHT

<u>The Far Left</u>	<u>Moderate Left</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>New Wave</u>	<u>Conservative</u>
Contactees	ETH	Unknown Phenomena	Government Manipulation	Hoaxes
Paranormalists	Abductions			Misinterpretations
Religious		Requires greater research	Secret testing	
			Weapons development	

TYPICAL FIGURE IN CATEGORY

Adamski

Keyhoe

Hynek

Spaulding

Klass

Let's now review some basic saucer facts and the positive and negative elements within each category. The following saucer facts are considered fundamental to most researchers in at least one category:

1. Cover-up

- o There is a massive cover-up by the U.S. Government.
- o There is no cover-up of data by any government.
- o Some of the data has been manipulated by government agencies to create a basic saucer belief system.

2. Crashed Saucers or Landings

- o Saucers have landed or crashed to earth and have been confiscated by the government.
- o Saucers have landed briefly and have never been captured or recovered.
- o Saucers have never landed or crashed because they do not exist.
- o Crashes of government experiments gone-wrong have occurred and have both accidentally and deliberately been misidentified.

3. Reports

- o All reports of saucers are identifiable or hoaxes.
- o Most reports of the bona-fide incidents represent extraterrestrial visitations.
- o A small residue of the reports represent government testing and are covered up by a ruse to create a flying saucer belief system.
- o All reports represent all of the above and other explanations ranging from interdimensional to religious.

4. Origins

- o Outer space.
- o U.S. Government and other super world power governments.
- o Do not exist.
- o Another dimension.
- o Unknown phenomena.
- o Exist as a result of a minor conspiracy.

Each one of the above statements becomes the basis for fact depending on who is presenting the data and from which category this person is classified. Unfortunately, each of these "facts" contradicts the other one, resulting in an illogical and confusing state. The political flavor of the category is directly proportionate to the belief system. To wit: Ufologists have made the study of UFO's more confusing by being so diversified.

PRO & CON Elements Within Each Category

Category 1 - Far Left - This is the near-esoteric theory which to the 'belief' of many in other groups cannot be scientifically or satisfactorily proven. Examples:

- o Contactee type events/witnesses cannot be properly tested.
- o The so-called serious element of saucer study scoffs at extreme Left beliefs.
- o Many Moderates and Conservative researchers maintain that paranormal and/or religious theories should not be categorized with the study of saucers, as it tends to downgrade the overall subject.
- o No researcher or organization has brought forward serious, technical data to attack the Leftist element, with the exception of the negative data presented on the Adamski encounters.

Category 2 - Moderate Left - Represents the popular and media favorite theory - ETH, which has had the highest level of publicity since the fifties. Examples:

- o The crashed saucer falls into this group and in near cyclic regularity promote the theory that our government has saucers and crews hidden at secret bases.
- o ETH was born within this group and has generated many stories and popular rumors.
- o Abduction cases are just another logical step towards explaining the extraterrestrial hypothesis.
- o The government is guilty of both foul-up and cover-up and this only tends to support this belief system.

Category 3 - Moderates - This group supports the logic that there are too many cases, reported by so many trained observers, that there must be something extraordinary to the reports of saucers. Examples:

- o Thousands of similar cases 'prove' that saucers are real, yet many in this group are content to only define a mystery.
- o Positively speaking the Moderates contain the majority of the objective researchers.
- o Since science is not comprehended by many, this position is considered non-productive to many Liberal elements.
- o The lack of a formal position on many cases does not promote interest to the enthusiast.
- o The Moderates are considered the true silent minority.

Category 4 - New Wave - The position highlights the short comings of ETH and maintains that the research effort may have been wasted during the past 30+ years in attempting to prove something that wasn't there in the first place. Examples:

- o Official documents show that the saucer was not a vehicle from outer space or a secret Russian weapon.
- o Numerous reports of saucers can be correlated to secret government testing and development.
- o The intelligence agencies have seriously investigated and are involved with saucer reports.
- o This theory cannot explain all of the empirical sightings of strange aerial phenomenon.
- o This type of thinking is not popular with the old grass roots element.

Category 5 - Conservatives - Saucers do not exist and the explanations from the paranormalists offer no substantiation. All incidents of saucers have a fundamental explanation and only tend to prove the gullibility of the populous. Examples:

- o Since most sightings of saucers are either hoaxes or misinterpretations the Conservative has an easy time explaining away most, if not all incidents, to observations of the unusual observed by the untrained eye "under unusual conditions".
- o There are numerous cases of misinterpretations by the trained observer!
- o The Conservative does not have to prove he is right - it is the responsibility of the witness to prove the validity of their saucer event.

- o The thinking of the Conservative states that belief in flying saucers is silly, belief in other phenomena beyond that of saucers is absurd.
- o Since most saucer sightings and data is tenuous, by sheer statistics, the Conservative viewpoint is closest to the 'truth'.
- o On the negative of this political position, stereotyping cannot explain the small residue of unknowns (2 to 5 percent).

It is easy to see the overt confusion that exists within the basic saucer/UFO movement and how easy it would be to disagree over issues or even single events. Even the Moderates viewpoint is ridiculous to the Conservative and the Conservative is completely erroneous in their belief when judged by the other four categories.

Since it is impossible for the writer to be completely unbiased regarding personal judgement on all these categories, due to previous involvement in this field, questions were posed to the general public during a recent lecture on the subject. When a dozen persons were asked to comment on their overall view of each category the answers covered the entire spectrum. However, on the average and for what it is worth, most assuredly agreed that all categories were "partially right". This was not a scientific test, nor were the applicants fully screened to determine their own previous conception of saucers. Yet, the results are interesting. It could mean that no single political position has offered solid proof of its belief and that possibly the saucer movement needs to reassess its own thinking. In any case, the final answers may be completely different than those previously outlined.

ARE FLYING SAUCERS MANUFACTURED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT? A CLOSE LOOK AT THE PROS & CONS

It would be advantageous to both the saucer skeptic and the grass-roots believer to know that the United States or some other technology-laden world power has built a flying saucer-type vehicle. Initially it would certainly help the long-time believer in the extraterrestrial hypothesis. He could now claim that all though his basic theory of origin was misjudged, the bottom line would be the substantiated fact that a disc-like object does exist. It would be a matter of simply adjusting ones theory of origin rather than having to admit that the saucer researcher has been wasting a lot of effort over nothing.

The skeptic as well would have to admit he was wrong, that some of the reports were something much greater than misinterpretations and hoaxes. However, if a bona-fide vehicle, with a general description of a flying disc did exist, he could easily play-up the absurdity of those that zealously promoted outerspace visitations for all these years.

If this hypothesis did prove true, all sides of the saucer mystery, would win. On the positive side, the scientific community which previously treated the saucer phenomenon as so much ado about nothing, would most likely become interested to the point of "leaving the closet" and may even begin a new serious inquiry into the once-popular subject. Moderate-classified researchers would readily jump to the opportunity to re-evaluate the older "classics" and the stubbornly unsolvable unknown reports, which always, unwarrantly, obtained the status of extraterrestrial in origin.

The negative effects of this hypothesis would be the remainder of the players in the saucer field, who would easily say that a government-built saucer would only represent a small percentage of the volume of saucer reports. To wit: This theory would not explain the reports of saucers that simply "vanished" in flight or the scores of contact/communication incidents with alien entities. Unfortunately, there are thousands of persons who, to some degree, support these misgivings and would not change their thinking just because the United States admitted it has been secretly manufacturing and testing a saucer vehicle.

To validate the potential of an American-built disc machine, it is important to review certain quantifiable facts, basic logic and the politics of such an undertaking. The basic premise which we are discussing is the building of a secret craft, the obvious clandestine testing of the subject machine(s) and the capability of total concealment of such a grandiose plan. Can it happen?

Initially, there are two logical elements to consider in the manufacturing of a disc. One, the government has a super secret underground base, with extensive manufacturing capability to build circular airfoils. This base which is militarily controlled, is staffed by civilians with classified clearances, and has the ability to remain covert. The base must be underground, as it would be easily detected by Soviet surveillance satellites. The control of the civilian work force would have to be perfect, as no one, to date, has come forth with a "story" about a secret factory with the capability to build saucers. Even the cover of a "Manhattan Project" syndrome would complicate matters to a further confusing end. This would imply that numerous divisions, permeating universities and the aerospace community are working independently, each building a complex component for the final assembly.

The second possibility theorizes that one or a combination of airframe and engine manufacturers are building the disc at their plants, working under a secret contract to avoid public disclosure and Congressional inquiries. The basic components are manufactured at their respective plants or testing facilities.

Employee exposure to the project would be high and it would be nearly impossible to keep full rein to prevent any leakage to the body politic and media. Surely a photograph, a drawing, a classified document or rumor would be circulated.

The potential for maintaining secrecy on the subject project could be enhanced if the machine(s) were built outside the United States. A good location to cover such a program would be the vastness of Australia. This should not be scoffed at, since the recent saucer reports have seemingly 'moved' to this continent. Obviously, something is responsible for the influx of reports of strange aerial phenomenon.

The basic idea of building a saucer sounds terrific and may be the answer to the small residue of unexplained aerial events. However, there are just as many negative points against this possibility, and it cannot be accepted as a blanket answer to the source of the saucers. At times it is as absurd as the extraterrestrial mistruths.

The following fundamental facts are pertinent to the proposed theory:

- o No data has surfaced to substantiate that the U.S. Government has been building a flying saucer.
- o In culling the thousands of reports of purported flying saucers, a small percentile still defy any conventional explanation. It appears that some bona-fide structured craft were observed.
- o Any extraordinary craft would have to be built with the expertise of the country's leading airframe and engine manufacturers.
- o Leading aviation specialists and journalists report it is impossible to cover-up the development of flying disc craft for any appreciable length of time.
- o What would be the purpose of spending millions of R&D dollars to build a saucer and not use it for commercial or warfare purposes?
- o If it was a technological flop and the proposed disc did not meet the criteria for which it was designed, then the reports of bona-fide saucer incidents should have stopped at the same time the development work ceased on the saucer craft (FN1).
- o The U.S. Government does not have it's own facilities to manufacture secret craft. It uses the facilities of McDonald Douglas, Hughes, Boeing, et al. It does, however, have its own design, testing, inspection and semi-assembly facilities. Even the top secret White Sands Missile Base has civilian aerospace companies working on site.

Recently GSW has been receiving information from purported ex-military officials, that claim to have seen a U.S.-built flying saucer. In the same manner of the crashed saucer incidents, much of their report cannot be substantiated and little supporting evidence can be uncovered. In many of the incidents the converse is true, whereas, more negative information is discovered that negates the witness' claim.

Whether the rumors of U.S. built saucers is a plot of deliberate misinformation, a hoax for fun or profit or a test of saucer researchers credulity, the bottom line says, there is neither logic nor facts to quantify the theory.

Although many things are possible, the mathematical probability is nil for the U.S. Government to keep the "secret" on the development of disc craft. Massive conspiracies and cover-ups sound interesting, mystifying and offer an avenue of hope for those in this field who cannot find the answers to the elusive saucers. After all, it's so much easier to blame the Government of a cover-up, than to cast doubts on the basic belief system.

Yet, is it possible that hundreds or thousands of conspirators are responsible for the perceived saucer cover-up? How could all these people keep so quiet for all these years? Surely some credible bit of information would have surfaced by now. If a cover-up does exist, it cannot be massive nor can it involve numerous people. For a conspiracy to be successful only a handful of collaborators could be involved. This methodology lessens the chance for a leak of classified data and controls the operation by knowing what everyone is doing.

The "small force of conspirators theory" hardly seems likely if the U.S. is in the business to build a high-technology saucer craft. What does seem to make more sense, would be the development of numerous secret programs ranging from remotely piloted vehicles (RPV) to stealth-capable airfoils. News of these projects has leaked, in a minuscule manner, to the media and some ingredient of these programs has been observed and misidentified as a "UFO".

It would be extremely important to highly-classify certain military projects and even deny their basic existance. However, history has shown that secrets have not been hidden effectively for twenty or thirty plus years (FN2). Does anyone really believe that a typical missile or aircraft, designed in the fifties, has not undergone thousands of modifications and probably a dozen name changes since the initial program, providing that the project was successful somewhere in its early stages. Even assuming that our typical project was successful, in a time period of twenty to thirty years, thousands of persons would have become involved in the development work and the feasibility testing. Modern-day sensors would have detected the once-secret operation as it is nearly impossible to shroud any project for any appreciable time.

There isn't much hope of claiming that the flying saucer mystery is all part of a top secret government program that has tested and flown a flying saucer. There are far too many negative facts behind such an endeavor. However, this should not infer that our government or any others are not designing a disc-shape craft for the future.

What the data does imply is that hundreds of secret projects of the military and other agencies have most assuredly been misinterpreted and that collectively these programs have formed the basis for the core of sightings of unidentified aerial objects. Furthermore, all this

publicity about secret programs, when presented to an agency of the intelligence community, could easily shape the present saucer belief systems by simply enhancing the appropriate information and presenting it to the gullible public.

If saucer reports are more than that, why hasn't the data surfaced on ten or twenty incidents that would completely nullify the strong possibility of a Government manipulation?

(FN1) Playing devil's advocate to this statement would be basically simple. To argue, all one would have to say is that the saucer phenomenon is something different than a government vehicle and it does not matter if they stop their testing because saucer reports continue each year.

(FN2) Assuming a conception date of modern-day saucer reports is June, 1947. Using the analogy that saucers have been kept secret for 35 years, why hasn't the same been true with the development of atomic weapons, specialized aircraft, contour-following missiles, laser weaponry research and hundreds of similar tests/developments.

* Trademark



The GSW News Bulletin is published three times annually...April, August, and December. Regular features include "Directly Speaking" by William H. Spaulding, Director/WD, organizations news, Map of Sightings, as well as interesting articles & stories relating to various aspects of UFOlogy. The GSW News Bulletin is available through subscription only, by mailing the order form below: NON-GSW MEMBERS: \$4.50/yr GSW MEMBERS: \$3.50/yr. Make your check or money order payable to Ground Saucer Watch, Inc.

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* LAST ISSUE-RENEW?

SPECULATION VS SCIENCE: WHO'S RIGHT - WHO'S WRONG

By: Kenneth Firestone

In all probability, the primary reason behind the lack of 'positive' evidence regarding UFOs is due to the never-ending conflict between the speculations of the interested public (saucer hobbyists, buffs) and the scientific community. For years the saucer buff and elements of the scientific community and the government have been engaged in a battle of "do the saucers exist or don't they?". In the interest of the subject; if it weren't for the opposing forces hashing about beliefs and theories, there would be nothing interesting or controversial about UFOs. In any discipline, for it to be stimulating, there must be competitors striving towards the same goal. In the analogy of flying saucers, there never seems to be an end to the game and victory is apparently unimportant so long as there is enough interested fans to keep the event going.

There has been a rapid decrease in saucer interest since the end of the futile Air Force Project Blue Book endeavor. I use the word "futile" because the only apparent evidence they seem to have uncovered was the stacks of near-worthless paper which they effectively stored deep within their files. There are some in the UFO field that believe there is some important data, like the frequently referenced Hangar 18 rumor, which would drastically change the course of ufology, if this "secret" information could be realized. Will we ever learn what is inside the contents of that stored matter? It is entirely possible that there isn't any hidden material that contains important information.

As long as the Air Force was involved in the investigation of saucers, people thought there was something highly important about the unusual aerial objects. The Air Force with their aircraft and space technology was held in high esteem by the public when it came to dealing with an aerial mystery. But when the Air Force terminated their investigation, (circa 1969), it put a damper on UFO interest. By proclaiming that the flying saucers really weren't anything at all, the Air Force contributed to mass apathy regarding the subject. There were those who believed UFOs were from an extraterrestrial origin and were here to save us from self-destruction, but the lay majority of the populous saw their interest diminish when the Air Force's inquiry faded.

With the Government's negative proclamations paramount, the atmosphere was conducive for speculating. The writer used to feel there was no room in the saucer movement for speculation. Yet, speculation was the next natural step, since no one in authority was offering anything but negative comments on the subject and about those few who closely followed it. Speculation takes on an aura of added importance, in light of the way science treated the subject. One could say that science failed in its half-hearted research attempt. How could anything be said scientifically about saucers, since no one actually knows what they represent? Science is a strict discipline, i.e., chemistry, biology, et al, and since there is little known about saucers they have been erroneously placed in a branch of "science" similar to the occult.

Why did it take the Air Force, CIA, FBI and countless other government agencies close to 22 years to arrive at zero results? A series of logical questions arises regarding the saucer phenomenon.

o Why did the government use members of the scientific community to investigate something that officially did not exist? Was it to appease the small portion of the populous that were claiming that the government was covering up important data?

o Were all of the people used to maintain a fictitious high level of mystery to aid in the prolonging interest of the saucer subject? If so, what could be the purpose? If the people who officially investigated the saucers were just creating a ruse, there would be far too many and therefore they had to be externally simulated with "false" information. Anything less than this possibility and surely someone would have come forth with some information. The purpose of creating a facade, would be to simply keep the interest high to divert anyone with serious research capability away from the subject.

If there was anything scientifically gained from the government's "research", then the data has yet to be seen. The various programs and Ad Hoc Committee sessions always concluded that the saucers were no threat to national security. For 35 years we have been listening to the same old line. At least that's what we have all been told. Did these high level sessions reveal more than this? If the government has never captured a saucer, then how do they know they do not constitute violence? Or is there a possibility that there is an outer space vehicle locked inside the walls of a military base somewhere? Still, after all the years of saucer inquiry, I thought it was an insult to our intelligence that we could not reveal the identity of the phenomenon known as flying saucers. It is a basic truism that America possesses an impressive technology, which is capable of launching deep space telemetry probes, manned space missions and new developments in the field of medicine that hinge on the spectacular.

With these facts evident, an important question surfaces - why hasn't any substantial evidence been obtained on a simple aero-dynamic configuration - the flying saucer? The answer may not be so complicated and most likely represents two separate philosophies as follows:

A - There isn't any strong supportive evidence to collect, since all saucer reports represent a small residue of hoaxes and a vast percentage of misidentified conventional objects and phenomenon. With this level of thinking, the more time spent on researching saucers the less knowledge one will gain.

B - There appears to be a basic problem in the UFO field, as considerable evidence is placed on the saucer debate than with resolving the reports of UFOs. This is due to the fact that "researchers" forgot or never realized their priorities/purpose and some selected to chase stardom, with public appearances and media interviews.

The early sixties truly marked the beginning of popular saucer theorizing, with the pro-saucer element and the anti-UFO groups lashing at one another's ego. The anti was claiming there were logical alternatives to all UFO sightings and the pro element were forever protecting their favorite theory that UFOs were from the vastness of outer space. The entire UFO controversy reminds me of religion, whereas the fanatic, though he hasn't all the answers is never wrong and the skeptic inelegantly attacks the heart of the belief.

Did you ever wonder why researchers never worked in unity? Maybe they have a nuclear bomb or a pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving, but UFOs, never! Simply because the saucers are only a belief and with any belief system comes the argumentative controversy that supercedes the subject and any attempt at a unified inquiry into the matter is impossible.

For those who have witnessed what they perceive to be a flying saucer, I believe you, but the cold fact remains that no one can claim their origin. For years scientists have theorized the feasibility of life visiting Earth from another planet/solar system and the type of machine it would take to get here. Some of the 'braver' scientists have gone as far as to say that a real "mystery" exists. That is as far as they will go, they cannot offer substantial evidence to prove the extraterrestrial hypothesis.

The pro-saucer researcher can only offer an opinion based on a belief that we are being visited by space creatures. There is no real means of substantiating this theory - only a feeling that they are right. The anti-ufologist is happy to tear down the pro-saucerian belief because he is upset with all the publicity that has been generated on the subject or for some other negative reason. The only dedicated researchers may be the 'debunker', a title given to a small group note worthy of their true intentions. This category, at least the professional ones, have not taken a side one way or the other on the basic belief system. They simply try to discover the who, what, where, when and why on the subject of sightings of UFOs. By diligently tracing leads, sources and at times, gut-feelings, the 'debunker' tries to place in another piece of the saucer puzzle. Generally, they are not famous like the present celebrities within the field and it isn't their intent to be popular. Their function is to accumulate fresh, provocative and factual data to aid in the identification of the UFO. Had saucer research taken that stand 35 years ago, we may have already known the truth behind the mystery today.

So, who's right and who's wrong? The answer, of course, is no one. To date either the speculative or the scientific side hasn't one single shred of evidence to change the way of thinking on the subject of flying saucers. The debates and the confusion go on.

WHY FLYING SAUCERS?

By: Kenneth Firestone

If you had ever seen a missile speeding its way through the sky and did not know it was a missile, what shape would you say it was? If you guessed tubular than you are right, but what about those individuals who may have witnessed a Pershing missile gone astray from the White Sands Missile Range (New Mexico) heading on a track towards Colorado? On November 19, 1964 it happened. The missile which overshot its target by over 300 miles, crashed in Creede, Colorado.

In late October (1982), eighteen years after its launch, large portions of the missile were found. A White Sands spokesman stated the reason that the missile malfunctioned was the failure of an explosive charge implanted in the rocket's second stage to slow down the missile's thrust. It was this malfunction that allowed the ballistic weapon to venture into Colorado instead of its original destination - the vast plains of White Sands.

As the streaking projectile transversed over populated areas, what might have been the thoughts of the witnesses? Probably most of them assumed it was a flying saucer. Not tubular, ball or triangular shaped, but saucer-like. From the conception of modern day saucer sightings (1947) to present, misinterpretations of conventional and non-conventional aerial configurations generated a profuse number of saucer reports. These misinterpretations have several causes:

- o The frantic psychological state of the observer at time of the occurrence to relay any accurate details.
- o Inadequate knowledge of observational techniques.
- o The eager acceptance by so many UFO witnesses of the basic saucer belief system.

Conditioning to the saucer belief system began with the popular Kenneth Arnold sighting in June of 1947 when he told the media the objects he observed looked like "saucers skipping upon water". Next the media exploited the term "flying saucers" giving it both dominance and popularity over all other geometric shapes, sizes and types of outer space vehicles. With the public being influenced with 'saucers hype', there was a time during the fifties and sixties, when every UFO sighted had to be a flying saucer.

In the earlier days of the official and unofficial UFO investigations the public became even more aware of flying saucers as the press, UFO groups and the Air force often referred to the subject as "saucers", even in some official reports. Due to this conditioning, using 'flying saucers' as a stimulus, many of the objects were reported as saucer-shaped, which otherwise may not have been. At least a better descriptive could have been used to report aerial phenomena.

If the general public wasn't so gullible and they were more educated in the identification methods of UFO's then we may have had a more understandable data base. Unfortunately, the flying saucer was a tool for protagonists to sell their products such as books, magazines, newspapers, movies, etc. The term, saucer, was a stimulating, at times captivating device and no other shape could lure the public's attention.

Some of the interest diminished after the failure of the Air Force attempt to build and fly a flying saucer. There were circulating rumors that a jet powered disc and the Avro car were past the designing stages and ready for test flights. Unfortunately, none of these concepts proved successful. To a portion of the public this added significance to some of the observations of flying discs/saucers.

Did the government ever really consider using the flying saucer as an airfoil to replace more conventional shapes? Did the military deliberately induce failure of their trite flying saucer program to create apathy of the saucer phenomenon? The saucer had a definite role in the UFO subject, mainly for solidifying the belief process. The saucer looked like a ship from space whose intelligence was years ahead of us in technology.

However, common reasoning tells us that the saucer is a poor design for outerspace use because of its limited space within, but of course the "pilots" were only four feet tall, at least that is what the moderate element of ufology has claimed. Logically, the most advantageous design for outerspace travel would be a square due to its large area for housing components and other facilities. Yet the square design doesn't seem extraterrestrial enough to generate UFO interest. The disc-shaped UFO did indeed create substantial interest among saucer buffs which caused several erroneous beliefs to manifest.

The saucer, to some, has become something of a deity, like Jesus Christ who came to us from above to protect us from harm and then returned to the heavens from which he came. Such was the case with the flying saucer in which too many believed. They were sent here to save us from some catastrophic incident. Conversely, there were those who believed otherwise, that the saucers were here to render havoc among the inhabitants of Earth. In either case the saucer stood as the foundation for these two beliefs. Saucer buffs, like religious zealots, needed no proof of their belief - total faith outweighed all logic.

Since the term flying saucers will apparently be with us for years to come, we still must ask the question, what is the origin of flying saucers? Are saucers from space, are they a psychological manifestation, media hype or are they something other than what they appear to be? Even the most hardened UFO skeptic will agree that in some of the reported sightings people are witness to something mystifying.

A recent study has revealed that as high as 95 percent of all UFO reports have occurred within 500 miles of a military base/test installation. This does not mean that extraterrestrials were

monitoring U.S. defense facilities. A more rational alternative is that there simply has been too much misinterpreting of known terrestrial objects such as many of the various kinds of airfoils being tested at military facilities.

There is strong data that the press inadvertently created a protective shield for the government to hide their clandestine testing behind their sensational UFO stories. Many of the more popular saucer stories are frequently quoted from the likes of the National Enquirer or Midnight tabloids.

Because so many individuals and UFO organizations are arguing over the varied flying saucer beliefs, the entire UFO matter has become a mass of entangled confusion. To this writer, there is too much disillusion and assumption in some saucer beliefs for there to be anything other than a puzzle. Eventually when the psychology of ufology is unraveled then there may be hope in uncovering the truth about flying saucers.

NGCA (NEXT GENERATION CONFUSION AIRCRAFT) ADVANCING THE NEXT STAGE OF MANNED AIRFOIL CONFIGURATIONS, LEADING AEROSPACE COMPANIES ARE DEVELOPING THE SABREBAT - A RADICAL SWEPT-WING GEOMETRY WITH STEALTH POTENTIAL. TEST AND OPERATIONAL FLIGHTS WILL MOST LIKELY RESULT IN MISINTERPRETATIONS OF "UNUSUAL AERIAL PHENOMENA". (CONCEPT BY ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL) FUTURE ISSUES OF THE GSW BULLETIN WILL DETAIL GOVERNMENT R & D PROGRAMS, PAST & PRESENT THAT HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR MANY OF THE PRESENTLY-RATED UNKNOWN SAUCER REPORTS.

